GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
DECLINE IN GROWTH RATE OF FARM SECTOR
GULAM MEHMOOD BANATWALLA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in the growth rate of the farm sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact of the decline on the economy including the growth rate of GDP; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken by the Government in the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The growth rate of farm sector declined in the year 1999-2000 due to aberrant weather conditions resulting in lower area coverage and lower productivity of various crops like oilseeds, coarse cereals, pulses, etc. The impact of the decline on the economy is directly reflected in the reduction in the growth of value addition by Agriculture Sector, and indirectly in the growth of Manufacturing and Service Sectors due to reduction in demand for goods and services and reduced supply of raw materials. According to the estimates released by Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate of value addition by `Agriculture & Allied Sector` consisting of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Fishing, at 1993-94 prices, declined to 1.3% in 1999-2000 as compared to 7.2% in 1998-99. The growth of the overall economy measured in terms of GDP declined to 6.4% in 1999-2000 from the level of 6.8% in 1998-99 at 1993-94 prices.

(d): To increase production and productivity in the farm sector, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in rice/wheat/coarse cereals Based Cropping System Area, National Pulse Development Project, Oilseeeds Production Programme and Technology Mission on Cotton etc. Under these programmes/projects, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of Integrated Pest Management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of food grains in India. Field demonstations on farmers` holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers is being organised for effective transfer of technology.